

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Ms. Rathi Menon filed two separate cases in Railway Claims Tribunal/Ernakulam for compensation. Railway Claims Tribunal/Ernakulam awarded Rs. 4 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs separately, in favour of the claimant on 15-6-98. Enhanced compensation came into force with effect from 1-11-1997 only. As the above incident occurred prior to 1-11-1997, the Railway had filed appeal before the High Court of Kerala. Taking the above stipulation into consideration, the High Court awarded an amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- only. The Supreme Court upheld the compensation of Rs. 6 lakhs awarded by the Railway Claims Tribunal/Ernakulam after Special Leave Petition was filed by the victim. Accordingly, the decree passed by the Supreme Court was satisfied on 7.6.2001.

**Phasing out subsidies on rail fares**

1491. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to change the existing system of tariff setting to phase out subsidies on passenger fares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Rakesh Mohan Committee has made recommendations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Railways incur losses in providing certain passenger services on social consideration. Indian Railways do not receive any subsidy on this account. Rationalisation of passenger fares to reduce the losses is a continuous process.

(d) to (f) The Rakesh Mohan Committee has so far not submitted the final report.